Forest Wide Trail Restoration (FINAL)

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A. List of Restoration Activities

This project consists of restoring impacts caused by 76 trails so they can be added to the Plumas NF Motor Vehicle Use Map. These trails have 58 stream crossings needing restoration work to reduce sedimentation and effects to water quality. These trails also need to have sections of trails relocated so restoration can occur on the section causing resource damage. These improvements will help minimize impacts to Mountain Yellow Leg Frogs and Foothill Yellow Leg Frogs. Seven trails need weeds pulled in the vicinity of these trails so that weeds will not be spread to adjacent trails and forest land. Three cultural sites need to be protected along three trails. These restorations are required in order to add these trails to the Plumas National Forest trail system.

This work will be done by contract, force account and volunteer work as needed. The work will the most cost effective and efficient. The Plumas NF road crew accomplishes a lot of road and trail work whenever possible. Volunteer groups also provide a significant amout of work

The 76 miles of trail need additional work before the trail can be considered for addition into the transporation system and future management.

B. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and how OHV Recreation caused the damage:

These trails will become part of the Plumas National Forest motorized trails system when the restoration work is completed. These trails were created by OHV users when the Plumas National Forest was open to cross country travel. These trails were not fully designed and constructed to existing motorized trail standards.

C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles

The project area consists of proposed trails throughout the Plumas National Forest. The project area consists of 168 acres along 69.3 miles of trails.

D. Monitoring and Methodology

Monitoring of trail conditions is required, and must meet Regional and/or National standards. If monitoring determines additional resource damage is occurring, steps to prevent further damage must be taken.

Deferred maintenance trail condition monitoring: Trails would be monitored using the deferred maintenance condition survey protocol. A sampling of the routes would be completed each year; trails should be monitored on a 5-year cycle. Both PNF employees and the public would use this monitoring process to document trail conditions, based on field observations and measurements. Information derived from this monitoring is used to update the maintenance schedule and assist in prioritizing maintenance needs.

Heritage monitoring: Monitoring of potential effects to heritage sites would be conducted as prescribed in the Programmatic Agreement among the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region's Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, California State Historic Preservation Officer, and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding the Process for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for Designating Motor Vehicle Routes and Managing Motorized Recreation on the National Forests in California (Motorized Recreation PA) (2006). The Motorized Recreation PA specifies that these sites will be monitored within a two-year period after designation.

The mitigation measures initially prescribed qualify as minimal actions necessary to alleviate potential adverse effects. If monitoring demonstrates that prescribed mitigation measures are ineffective, it may be necessary to implement progressively more complex protection measures. This could culminate in route closures if other measures prove unsuccessful. This type of adaptive management policy is discussed in the Motorized Recreation PA (2006).

Sensitive plant and noxious weed monitoring: Monitoring would occur along routes added to the NFTS that have been

identified as a high potential risk to sensitive plants or as highly vulnerable to noxious weed spread. These areas have the greatest potential for adverse effects from the continued use of public motorized vehicles. Sites will be monitored annually for year 1 and 2. If negative impacts are documented, appropriate mitigation measures (i.e. signage, barriers, etc or weed treatments) would be developed. The mitigation would be implemented within one year of the identified impact. Current PNF botany records and GIS data will be used as baseline data and compared with the future condition.

Soil and water monitoring: A portion (approximately one-half) of the set of trails monitored annually for trail condition (described above) would also be monitored for soil and water impacts. Evaluations E08 and E09 of the USFS Pacific Southwest Region's "Best Management Practices (BMPs) Evaluation Program" (May 2002) would be used to evaluate whether the monitored trails are impacting soil or water resources. These evaluations were developed to monitor the condition and drainage features of road surfaces and road/stream crossings. While OHV trails are typically narrower and often steeper than forest roads, the drainage practices that are necessary to protect soil and water quality are the same for both types of facilities. Monitoring would first occur along routes that have been identified as a higher risk to soil or water resources. The water quality indicator pertinent to these evaluations is observation (absence or presence, including magnitude) of trail-generated sediment delivered to a stream channel. Baseline water quality for normal and acceptable trail conditions is defined as (1) the effects to beneficial uses of sediment delivery are insignificant and immeasurable and (2) the effects persist within a very short period (less than a 5 day period and typically associated with a single activity or precipitation event). Immeasurable effects to beneficial uses means the pollutant (sediment) may be visible but is not likely detectable by compared measurements (e.g. turbidity or total suspended sediment) above and below the site. Trails for which monitoring indicates that BMP effectiveness rates "fail" or "at-risk" will be further investigated to determine if additional or existing trail drainage or stream crossing mitigations should be implemented or repaired.

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E. List of Reports

No reports will be produced with this restoration project

F. Goals, Objectives and Methodology / Peer Reviews

G. Plan for Protection of Restored Area

Restored areas will be protected with natural barriers, trails signs and interpretive signs.

Additional Documentation

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1. Project-Specific Maps

Attachments: Map Location

2. Project-Specific Photos

Attachments: Trail Picture

Project Cost Estimate

	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Version # _____ APP # _____		
APPLICANT NAME :	USFS - Plumas National Forest		
PROJECT TITLE :	Forest Wide Trail Restoration (FINAL)	**PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :**	G09-02-13-R02
PROJECT TYPE :	☐ Acquisition ☐ Development ☐ Education & Safety ☐ Ground Operations ☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Planning ☑ Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	This project consists of restoring impacts caused by 76 trails so they can be added to the Plumas NF Motor Vehicle Use Map. These trails have 58 stream crossings needing restoration work to reduce sedimentation and effects to water quality. These trails also need to have sections of trails relocated so restoration can occur on the section causing resource damage. These improvements will help minimize impacts to Mountain Yellow Leg Frogs and Foothill Yellow Leg Frogs. Seven trails need weeds pulled in the vicinity of these trails so that weeds will not be spread to adjacent trails and forest land. Three cultural sites need to be protected along three trails. These restorations are required in order to add these trails to the Plumas National Forest trail system. This work will be done by contract, force account and volunteer work as needed. The work will the most cost effective and efficient. The Plumas NF road crew accomplishes a lot of road and trail work whenever possible. Volunteer groups also provide a significant amout of work The 76 miles of trail need additional work before the trail can be considered for addition into the transporation system and future management.		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	**Staff**						
	Other-Volunteer Groups	3226.000	20.840	HRS	0.00	67,230.00	67,230.00
2	**Contracts**						
	Other-All Vehicles Trails	35.570	5000.000	EA	133,050.00	44,800.00	177,850.00
	Other-Quad Trails	12.690	1234.840	MI	15,670.00	0.00	15,670.00
	Other-motorcycle Trails	21.040	870.800	MI	18,322.00	0.00	18,322.00
	Total for Contracts				167,042.00	44,800.00	211,842.00
3	**Materials / Supplies**						

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
4	**Equipment Use Expenses**						
5	**Equipment Purchases**						
6	**Others**						
7	**Indirect Costs**						
Total Program Expenses					167,042.00	112,030.00	279,072.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					167,042.00	112,030.00	279,072.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					**167,042.00**	**112,030.00**	**279,072.00**

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	0.00	67,230.00	67,230.00	
2	Contracts	167,042.00	44,800.00	211,842.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Program Expenses		167,042.00	112,030.00	279,072.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		167,042.00	112,030.00	279,072.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		**167,042.00**	**112,030.00**	**279,072.00**	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? (Please select Yes or No) ○ Yes ◉ No

ITEM 2

b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ○ Yes ◉ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a “Project” under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? (Please select Yes or No) ◉ Yes ○ No

d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a “Project” under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ○ Yes ○ No

e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a “Project” under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

Stream course restoration will occur on 58 trails, reducing erosion and improving aquatic vegetation.

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

There are no cumulative impacts anticipated with this project.

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

Soil impacts will be reduced by restoration of stream crossings, proper location of drainage structures and relocation of trails causing soil erosion.

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

No scenic resources will be damaged by this restoration project.

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ○ Yes ◉ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ○ Yes ◉ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

There will be no adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

No potential exists for the project to cause indirect significant impacts by causing user groups to go elsewhere, or significantly increasing use in the vicinity of the project. Trail maintenance will enhance and sustain the OHV opportunity Forest wide.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments: NEPA Statement

Evaluation Criteria

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is: 3

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

- ○ 76% or more (10 points)
- ○ 51% - 75% (5 points)
- ◉ 26% - 50% (3 points)
- ○ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 2.

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Failure to fund the Project will result in adverse impacts to: 20

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Domestic water supply (4 points)
- ☑ Archeological and historical resources identified in the California Register of Historical Resources or the Federal Register of Historic Places (3 points)
- ☑ Stream or other watercourse (3 points)
- ☑ Soils - Site actively eroding (2 points)
- ☑ Sensitive areas (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of sensitive habitats [3]
- ☑ Threatened and Endangered (T&E) listed species (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of T&E species [3]
- ☐ Other special-status species- Number of special-status species (1 point each, up to a maximum of 3) Enter number of special-status species

Describe the type and severity of impacts that might occur relative to the checked item(s):

The Beckwourth trail needs to be protected where OHV trails intersect the Beckwourth trail. 58 trails have stream course crossing that need improvement to reduce sedimentation and impacts to sensitive species. All 76 trails need drainage structures to reduce trail erosion. 58 trails are within riparian areas needing restoration to reduce impacts. Mountain Yellow Leg Frogs, Foothill Yellow Leg Frogs, and Spotted Owls need trail restoration to reduce impacts to these species. Other special-status species include that need trail restoration to reduce impacts to these species. Route restoration activities will effectively prevent chronic sedimentation, resulting in significant water quality and aquatic habitat improvements. Water quality improvements, as well as prevention of local disturbances due to motorized traffic, will benefit several sensitive areas, including Protected Activity Centers (PACs) for Goshawk and CA Spotted Owl, adjacent wetlands, stream courses, ponds, and riparian areas.

3. Reason for Project - Q 3.

3. Reason for the Project 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ○ Protect special-status species or cultural site (4 points)
- ◉ Restore natural resource system damaged by OHV activity (4 points)
- ○ OHV activity in a closed area (3 points)
- ○ Alternative measures attempted, but failed (2 points)
- ○ Management decision (1 point)

- ○ Scientific and cultural studies (1 point)
- ○ Planning efforts associated with Restoration (1 point)

Reference Document

Project will restore natural resource systems by improving OHV trails by reducing sedimentation, reduce trail erosion, protect sensitive wildlife species, protect cultural sites and reduce spread of weeds. These trails were created by OHV activity when the forest was open to cross country travel. The travel managment record of decision when signed will be the guiding document.

4. Measures to Ensure Success - Q 4.

4. Measures to ensure success –The Project makes use of the following elements to ensure successful implementation 10

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each (Please select applicable values)

- ☑ Site monitoring to prevent additional damage
- ☑ Construction of barriers and other traffic control devices
- ☑ Use of native plants and materials
- ☑ Incorporation of universally recognized 'Best Management Practices'
- ☑ Educational signage
- ☐ Identification of alternate OHV routes to ensure that OHV activities will not reoccur in restored area

Explain each item checked above:

The project will include ongoing monitoring of trails for maintenance needs, impacts to sensitive wildlife species, impacts to cultural sites and spread of weeds. Barriers and signs will be utilized to document where OHV use can occur and where it is not allowed. Native plans and materials will be utilized to restore trail segments that are relocated. Best Management Practices will be utilized with every trail restored. Educational signage will be utilized to encourage proper use of trails including season of use signs on trails that impact sensitive wildlife special. OHV routes will be signed for authorized use, motor vehicle use maps will be published to identify legal trails for riding and unauthorized routes will be block where that intersect these trails

5. Publicly Reviewed Plan - Q 5.

5. Is there a publicly reviewed and adopted plan (e.g., wilderness designation, land management plans, route designation decisions) that supports the need for the Restoration Project? 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ○ No (No points)
- ◉ Yes (5 points)

Identify plan

The Plumas National Forest Travel Management Decision supports this restoration project

6. Primary Funding Source - Q 6.

6. Primary funding source for future operational costs associated with the Project will be: 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ○ Applicant's operational budget (5 points)
- ◉ Volunteer support and/or donations (3 points)
- ○ Other Grant funding (2 points)
- ○ OHV Trust Funds (No points)

If 'Operational budget' is checked, list reference document(s):

7. Public Input - Q 7.

7. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 1 point each, up to a maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☑ Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
- ☑ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
- ☑ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

These restoration projects were developed with extensive public input through public meetings, on the ground workshops, group meetings and individual contacts. All public meeting were published in the local newspapers, meeting with stakeholders were scheduled when requested by the groups. Also conference calls and individual meetings were held during the entire travel management process and are still on going.

8. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 8.

8. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ◉ 4 or more (4 points)
- ○ 2 to 3 (2 points)
- ○ 1 (1 point)
- ○ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

Partners include; Sierra Access Coalition, Paradise Ridge Riders, Recreation Outdoor Coalition, CORVA and Blue Ribbon Coalition.

9. Scientific and Cultural Studies - Q 9.

9. Scientific and cultural studies will 6

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☑ Determine appropriate Restoration techniques (2 points)
- ☑ Examine potential effects of OHV Recreation on natural or cultural resources (2 points)
- ☑ Examine methods to ensure success of Restoration efforts (1 point)
- ☑ Lead to direct management action (1 point)

Explain each item checked above

Field investigations and reports from PNF resource specialists, including watershed, wildlife, recreation, cultural and botany have occurred and these specialists will be utilized to determine the appropriate restoration for these trails. This multi-discipline effort will ensure success of the restoration project.

10. Underlying Problem - Q 10.

10. The underlying problem that resulted in the need for the Restoration Project has been effectively addressed and resolved 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ○ No (No points)
- ◉ Yes (3 points)

Explain 'Yes' answer

The Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the Upper Feather River watershed (2005) identifies the reduction of sediment problems associated with roads and trails as being the key watershed restoration activity for the PNF.

11. Size of sensitive habitats - Q 11.

11. Size of sensitive habitats (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) within the Project Area which will be restored 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- (•) Greater than 10 acres (5 points)
- ( ) 1 – 10 acres (3 points)
- ( ) Less than 1 acre (1 points)
- ( ) No sensitive habitat within Project Area (No points)